

# Hudiesaurus

***Hudiesaurus*** (meaning "butterfly lizard") is a herbivorous sauropod genus of dinosaur from China. The fossil remains of *Hudiesaurus* were in 1993 found by a Chinese-Japanese expedition near Qiketai in Shanshan, Xinjiang province. The type (and only named) species, *Hudiesaurus sinojapanorum*, was named and described by Dong Zhiming in 1997. The generic name is derived from Mandarin *hudie*, "butterfly" and refers to a flat butterfly-shaped process on the front base of the vertebral spine. The specific name refers to the members of the expedition but can also be read as "central part" in Chinese, a pun on the Japanese *Chunichi Shinbun* (again "central part") press group, which financed the research.<sup>[1]</sup>

*Hudiesaurus* is known from only two incomplete specimens, uncovered within sediments in the Turpan Basin equivalent to the Kalazha Formation of the Junggar Basin , which perhaps dates to the late Jurassic Period. The type specimen (IVPP V 11120) is represented only by a very large anterior dorsal vertebra. Another partial skeleton from an apparently smaller individual found about a kilometre away from the holotype, consisting of a nearly complete right front leg and teeth, specimen IVPP P. 11121, has by Dong been referred to this species.<sup>[1]</sup> Paul Upchurch in 2004 rejected the identity because of a lack of overlapping material.<sup>[2]</sup>

Although the specimens are fragmentary, *Hudiesaurus* is believed to have been very large, even for sauropods, given the considerable length of the vertebral centrum of fifty-five centimetres. Its body length is estimated at 20–30 m (66–98 ft).<sup>[3][1]</sup> In 2016, Gregory S. Paul estimated its length at 25 meters (82 ft) and its weight at 25 tonnes (27.5 short tons).<sup>[4]</sup> In 2020, Molina-Perez and Larramendi gave a larger estimation of 30.5 meters (100 ft) and 44 tonnes (48.5 short tons), suggesting that the vertebra may be a cervical instead of a thoracic, in which case the animal would be at 32 meters (105 ft) and 55 tonnes (60.6 short tons).<sup>[5]</sup>

Dong thought *Hudiesaurus* may have been related to Mamenchisaurus and accordingly placed it in the Mamenchisauridae. Upchurch in 2004 limited the precision to a more general Eusauropoda.<sup>[2]</sup>

## References

- Dong, Z. (1997). "A gigantic sauropod (*Hudiesaurus sinojapanorum* gen. et sp. nov.) from the Turpan Basin, China." Pp. 102-110 in Dong, Z. (ed.), *Sino-Japanese Silk Road Dinosaur Expedition*. China Ocean Press, Beijing.
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- Holtz, Thomas R. Jr. (2011) *Dinosaurs: The Most Complete, Up-to-Date Encyclopedia for Dinosaur Lovers of All Ages*, Winter 2010 Appendix. (<http://www.geol.umd.edu/~tholtz/dinoappendix/HoltzappendixWinter2010.pdf>)

<i><b>Hudiesaurus</b></i>
<b>Temporal range:</b> Late Jurassic
<b>Scientific classification</b> 
Kingdom: <span>Animalia</span>
Phylum: <span>Chordata</span>
Clade: <span>Dinosauria</span>
Clade: <span>Saurischia</span>
Suborder: <span>†Sauropodomorpha</span>
Clade: <span>†Sauropoda</span>
Family: <span>†Mamenchisauridae</span>
Genus: <span>†<i>Hudiesaurus</i></span> <div>Dong, 1997</div>
Species: <span>†<i><b>H. sinojapanorum</b></i></span>
<b>Binomial name</b>
<span>†<i><b>Hudiesaurus sinojapanorum</b></i></span> <div>Dong, 1997</div>

4. Paul, Gregory S. (2016). *The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs 2nd Edition*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. p. 207.
5. Molina-Perez & Larramendi (2020). *Dinosaur Facts and Figures: The Sauropods and Other Sauropodomorphs*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. p. 252.

## External links

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- ["How big was \*Hudiesaurus\*?" \(http://svpow.wordpress.com/2008/01/17/how-big-was-hudiesaur-us/\)](http://svpow.wordpress.com/2008/01/17/how-big-was-hudiesaur-us/) *Sauropod Vertebra Picture of the Week*, January 17, 2008

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